

America's Tank Division



IRONSIDE

December-January 2004-2005



www.1ad.army.mil



1st Armored Division

IRONSIDE MAGAZINE

DECEMBER-JANUARY 2004-2005

In Action Series

Photo by Pfc. 1st Class Jennifer M. McEadden

Flexible
1-94 Field Artillery



GRID

Multiple
Launch
Rocket
System

M270 MLRS SMASHER!

1st Armored Division



IRONSIDE

Published in the interest of the Soldiers of 1st Armored Division

Magazine

Ironsides is published monthly by the 1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office, HQ 1st Armored Division, AETV-THE-A, Unit 24309, APO AE 09096, DSN 337-4859, Commercial 0611-705-4859.

Printed circulations: 4000 copies. This Army funded magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army overseas.

Contents of Ironsides are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or by the 1st Armored Division.

Questions or comments should be directed to:

1st Armored Division
Public Affairs Office
Unit 24309
APO AE 09096

Telephone: DSN (314) 337-4861 Civilian 011-49-611-705-4861

E-mail: gregory.withrow@1ad.army.mil

Ironsides staff

1st Armored Division Commander
Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Michael Indovina

Public Affairs NCOIC
Master Sgt. David Melancon

Ironsides Editor/Graphics-Layout-Design
Sgt. Gregory Withrow

Staff Writers
Pvt. Jennifer McFadden
Spc. Scott Pittillo
Sgt. Christopher Stanis

Volume 1
Issue 2



In this issue . . .

page 4
Division Command Sergeant Major Speaks

page 6
1-94th Field Artillery (MLRS)
live fire in Baumholder, Germany

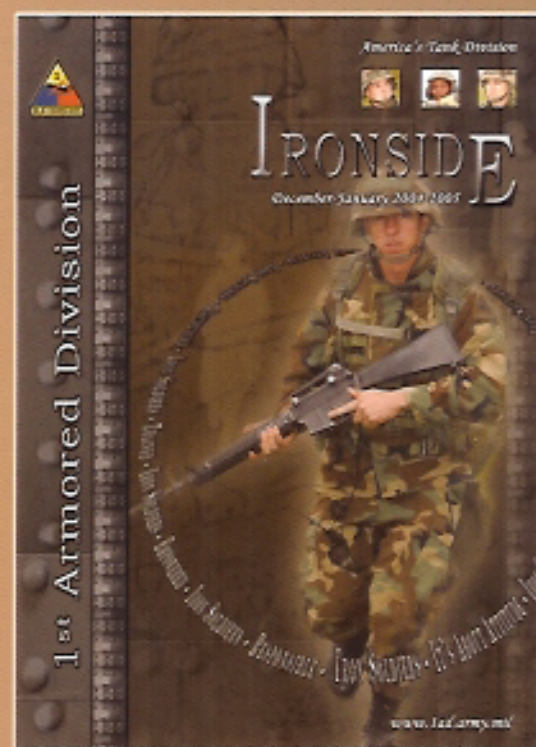
page 12
1-36th Infantry conducts
Expert Infantryman's Badge qualification

page 16
Division Engineers get back
to the basics of combat engineering

page 24
1-501st Aviation upgrades to
Apache Longbow

page 26
501st Military Police refocus
after Iraq

COVER PHOTO



Spc. Michael Smith, Company A, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, assaults an enemy fighting position during the grenade qualification portion of the Expert Infantryman's Badge competition in Friedberg, Germany, during November 2004.

1-94th Field Artillery (MLRS)



page 6

Feature Articles

501st Military Police



page 26

Division Engineers DIGEX



page 16

1-36th Infantry



page 12



Division Command Sergeant Major Speaks

rigors of combat. Every Soldier is a warrior, and we must train that way. It is imperative that all Soldiers are proficient in basic warfighting skills, and develop a physical toughness that will sustain them on the battlefield. We must take advantage of this opportunity to prepare Soldiers, build teams and grow leaders for the future. It's what you learn after you know everything that counts. Our commitment to excellence and training to tough and exacting standards will ensure everyone is prepared to succeed.

The safe and successful accomplishment of the training mission will require Soldiers and leaders to be involved and disciplined in the enforcement of standards under the most arduous conditions. We must not lower any standards or cut corners. Lower standards lead to unsuccessful missions and unsafe practices. We have to work smartly to ensure that our Soldiers are successful and safe. Leaders must take the time to talk with Soldiers, and make sure they understand the training tasks and overall mission. Time spent reinforcing tasks during training may save lives later on down the road.

Well-trained Soldiers equal hard work mentally and physically. Knowing the Warrior Ethos — and living it — remains as a guide to being a warfighter and a successful warfighting organization. We are a team that works together through the strength of individual initiative, commitment, and responsibility to the mission. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months as we conduct the mission of training America's Tank Division.

"Learn and improve today, tomorrow may be the tough fight."

Iron Soldiers!

Roger P. Blackwood
CSM, USA
Division Command Sergeant Major

Everywhere I've visited recently, Iron Soldiers are fully engaged with training and preparing for the challenges of the upcoming intensive training cycle. I see the dedication, and commitment our Soldiers give everyday to their units and America's Tank Division. It is impressive and I am very proud of all Iron Soldiers for what they do everyday, and continue to do.

The upcoming training period will be a busy time for the Division as we continue to reintegrate and prepare for the next mission by training in a tough, realistic, field environment. All units of America's Tank Division will and must train to regain proficiency in field craft and warfighting skills thus enabling our Soldiers to fight, survive and win together on the Global War on Terrorism battlefield.

The Division's experience in combat has reinforced the premise that all Soldiers are warfighters and members of a fighting force that must be fit to endure the

Soldier's Creed

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Do you know your Warrior Drills?

1. React to Contact (Visual, IED, Direct Fire [Includes RPG])
2. Avoid Ambush
3. React to Ambush (Blocked and Unblocked)
4. React to Indirect Fire
5. React to Chemical Attack
6. Break Contact
7. Dismount a Vehicle
8. Evacuate Injured Personnel from Vehicle
9. Secure at a Halt

For more information on the nine Warrior Drills and 40 Warrior Tasks go to the following website:

<http://www.armystudyguide.com/Warrior-Ethos/>





1st Battalion 94th Field Artillery Regiment (MLRS) *DEEP STEEL*

Redlegs light up Baumholder skies

Story and photos by Pvt. Jennifer M. McFadden

Iron Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment (MLRS) honed their live-fire skills with a qualification in Baumholder, Germany, Nov. 29 through Dec. 2.

After a 15-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi freedom, the three artillery batteries and radar battery that form the ranks of 1-94 FA have renewed their focus on high intensity combat training.

These types of exercises are "baby steps" to the unit's ultimate training goal of

... continued next page ...



M270 MLRS

The M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System is a mobile artillery system capable of striking against air defense systems, enemy artillery, armored formations and other high value targets deep inside enemy territory.

This System can fire both rockets and missiles.

The MLRS is based on the US M2 Bradley chassis and the system is self-loaded with two rocket pod containers, each containing 6 rockets.

Being power assisted and taking approximately 20 to 40 minutes, loading the MLRS is no small task.

MLRS is deployed as independent launcher units. These units use a shoot and move technique. The idea is to be able to come out of hiding, aim and shoot within four minutes.

The MLRS is normally used for deep fire-support, from 10 to more than 30 km with unguided rockets to more than 60 km with guided rockets. These vehicles are capable of firing 12 rockets in less than a minute. Quick evacuation

this makes the M270 a preferred weapons system for crew survivability.

Crew: 3-driver, gunner, section chief

Weight: 55,000 pounds

Length: 22 feet 6 inches

Width: 9 feet 9 inches

Height (stowed): 2.57m

Max Range: 483 km

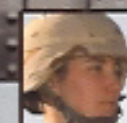
Propulsion:

Cummings VTA-903 turbo-charged 8 cylinder diesel developing 500bhp at 2,300 rpm. Able to attain a max speed of 64km/h.

Armament: Warheads are anti-personnel/anti-material, precision anti-armor sub munitions and other variants. One round equals one launcher firing 12 rockets.

Ammunition: M77 Scatterable Anti-Personnel Mine, which are able to kill enemy soldiers through the combined effects of blast and fragmentation.

AT2 SCATMIN Rocket is an anti-tank rocket. Each rocket carries 28 anti-tank mines.





preparing for the big picture of full-spectrum operations, according to Major John Frisbie, 1-94 FA training and operations officer in charge.

Troops battling insurgents, conducting combat patrols in residential neighborhoods and building hospitals all at the same time is considered full-spectrum operations, Frisbie explained.

Gearing the soldiers from low-intensity conflicts, where risks to forces are minimal, to high-intensity conflicts, where major forces with large number of people and equipment are used is a focus of the unit's multi-faceted training effort.

Although the focus of the live-fire event was crew qualification, the exercise encompassed the entire battalion, from the launcher crews, fire-direction center (FDC), ammunition handlers, and radar operations to battery and battalion leadership.

The launcher crew, which is comprised of three soldiers, a driver, usually a specialist, a gunner, a sergeant, and a section chief, usually a staff sergeant, are qualified by successfully performing three missions.

The scenarios – At My Command, When Ready and Time on Target – were the missions chosen for the event.

The first scenario, At My Command, is conducted by giving the crew a mission, which is received from the Fire Direction Center. The crew then moves to the fire point 'lays on target' and then waits to be specifically told to arm rockets and finally to fire.

... continued page 10 ...

(Below) Iron Soldiers of Battery A, 1-94 FA (MLRS), fire a rocket from one of 12, 227 mm rocket tubes on the unit's workhorse, the M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System.



"Iron Warrior Training teaches our Soldiers to fight as a Soldier in an infantry type role."

Maj. John P. Frisbie

1-94 Field Artillery (MLRS)

Battalion Training and Operations

Officer in Charge

MET Team



Another important member of the MLRS family is the meteorological team. These three-soldier teams are responsible for providing valuable atmospheric data to the fire direction center.

Helium is used to carry the weather balloon with a radio sonde, a miniature weather station, to an altitude of nearly 15,000.

A chemical light is this device's only tracking system until the balloon finally bursts.

The radio sonde relays information to the MET team who is able to interpret and forward the imperative information quickly.

Some of the information the MET team gathers are atmospheric pressure, wind speed, relative humidity and temperature.

These teams are also very useful for safe range exercises, ensuring the trajectory of each rocket will stay safely within range limits.

The information provided by the MET team allows the MLRS launchers to be a lethal fighting force with accurate results.



*"We are planning to train
as an infantry task force
during the second quarter
of 2005 and enter CMTC
as a maneuver force."*

Maj. John P. Frisbie

1-94 Field Artillery (MLRS)

Battalion Training and Operations

Officer in Charge

This situation may occur down range when an enemy is expected to be in a certain spot but the time frame is unknown. This type of mission also relies on experienced forward observers to search out and pin point the enemy.

The second scenario, When Ready, is facilitated by the FDC sending the 'when

ready' mission to the crew. The crew then has four minutes to move to the fire point, lay on target and fires at will.

This mission is used when there is a target of opportunity either from a 'Fire for Effect' call or a raid.

The Time On Target mission is a very calculated mission. The FDC sends the mission

with two count-down clocks. The first clock sets a count down time to be at the firing point and lay on target. The second clock then begins with a count down to the rockets being fired.

If the unit knows there is going to be a large assault for the division a TOT mission may be requested. All 18 of the launchers would shoot

their 12 rockets, which in turn would seriously disrupt the enemy, Frisbie explained.

The live-fire qualification is a culminating event of many weeks of training without actually firing the weapons system.

The Battalion expects to reach "trained" status for high-intensity conflict by May 2005, after field training in April and May.

With the ever changing Army the mission statement for this unit is also changing.

The unit, primarily an artillery unit, is now introducing the infantry side of the Army to its soldiers.

"We are planning to train as an infantry task force during the second quarter of 2005 and enter CMTC as a maneuver force," said Frisbie.

January will begin the infantry training with Iron Warrior Tasks, such as joint urban operations, moving under direct fire, engaging targets with MK-19 grenade launchers and employing mines and hand grenades.

With extensive training varying from artillery live-fire to a new focus in the direction of the infantry training 1-94 FA is becoming a more versatile force for the division commander.



Spartans seek 1-36th Infantry

Expert Infantryman's Badge

the mark of excellence

A long rifle sewn just above the U.S. Army tag on the left breast of a Soldier's uniform might not mean much to the average observer, but to the infantryman this sign denotes the utmost competence in the grueling daily tasks that are the foundation American Soldier.

The Expert Infantryman's Badge, which started in 1943, is a series of events and hands-on tests that stretch a Soldier's limits both physically and mentally. Although the Combat Infantryman's Badge is awarded to infantry Soldiers who have participated in combat, the EIB is a refined examination of specific skills required to perform as an infantryman at the highest level of proficiency.

"Prerequisites for the EIB are rigorous," said 1st Sgt. Michael Johnson of Company B, 1-36th IN. Success in the Army Physical Fitness Test, a 12-mile rucksack march, expert marksmanship, and day and night land navigation, all pave the way to earning a chance at the EIB. Historically, the success rate is about 10 percent, making this a highly valued badge.

"Looking over and seeing another Soldier wearing the EIB gives Soldiers confidence in each other," said Johnson. The knowledge that a comrade in arms has what is considered to be a mark of military excellence lets other Soldiers know that the Soldier really knows his stuff and can be relied upon.

As the Army has evolved since the EIB's inception, so have the tasks required to earn the prestigious tab. Of the 37 tasks that comprise the test, two are new. The ability to wield the Army's newest infantry-based anti-armor missile and the use of laser optics in zeroing weapons, have recently been added to the ever-changing repertoire of the American infantryman.

The Javelin anti-armor missile, which has seen service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, was fielded by the 1st Armored Division in December 2002. The task of firing the weapon will evolve again as the division prepares to upgrade to the Javelin II in early 2005.

The bore light, a laser optic sighting device is also being used by the division. Designed to zero a weapon

... continued page 30 ...

Story and photos by Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow



A stopwatch is ticking away the seconds as Sgt. Michael Pixley, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, assembles and disassembles an anti-tank mine. This station is one of 37 tasks designed to encompass the entire array of infantry skills needed to be successful on the modern battlefield and attain the coveted Expert Infantryman's Badge.



3rd Brigade Soldiers adapt training to urban operations

Stories and photo by Spc. Christopher Schmek, 19th Public Affairs Detachment

1-41st Infantry mentally prepares for combat



Spc. Dan Smith, 1-41 Infantry, plays the part of a casualty during improvised Military Operations in Urban Terrain training in the National Training Center Motor Pool.

Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, practiced Military Operations in Urban Terrain in their National Training Center motor pool at Fort Irwin, Calif., Oct. 25, but their minds took them across the ocean to another desert.

The Soldiers were mentally preparing themselves for a more dangerous, real-world mission in Iraq expected to come sometime in 2005.

"The fact that the enemy is becoming more tactically competent means that all levels of company training, (including) headquarters and line platoons, need to receive training as far as if a convoy gets hit by an explosive device and ambushed," said Sgt. Jeremy Fowler. "They need to know exactly what to do and where to go. We all need to know what to do in case it happens."

With that in mind, the company conducted reaction casualty evacuations from an ambushed convoy, then moved into and cleared a house, according to Spc. John Sherfield.

"I think the training is going to do very well (because) one of the things you're up against there is you might be hit by improvised explosive de-

vices, and they might also be followed up with ambushes," Sherfield said. "You're going to have to clear the streets as soon as possible and practice the methods necessary to secure your casualties to take care of them."

This increased emphasis on urban operations follows NTC's latest shift in training styles.

"It's no longer going to be the big tank battles," said Staff Sgt. Dan Vallenavedo of Co. A. "The first week is expected to be squad sized training, then unit and company level training. The most important thing here is for us to develop our standard operating procedures for this kind of thing."

"The most important thing is for me to make sure my guys know what they're doing," he said. "I'm not as concerned about NTC as I am about getting that idea into their heads so that they take it seriously."

Vallenavedo said his platoon would do everything necessary to ensure that they entered the theatre of operations with a professional attitude, knowing their mission to the best of their ability.

"NTC will never be exactly like Iraq," he said, "but you can give them an attitude so they sort of know what to expect. That's all you can ask."

Medics of 1-13 Armor hone combat skills

As the National Training Center at Fort Irwin shifts its focus from major tank battles to urban, squad-sized missions, units that might traditionally not have seen much combat are preparing for anything.

The medic platoon of 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, has been training for Military Operations in Urban Terrain as diligently as their armor crewman counterparts, in full expectation of participating in combat operations later in the rotation and, potentially, in Iraq.

"NTC used to have a very distinct mission with a linear battlefield," said 1st Lt. Jerry Silvers, who was moved into Observer Control from the medical platoon. "Now they're moving away from that with civilians on the battlefield, more cities and a lot less force on force. The enemies are getting smarter, not attacking just the combat units anymore, but now going after the support elements. We have to be ready for it."

"While we're here, the company plans on entering and clearing a building ourselves," said 2nd Lt. Ben Doorink, medic platoon leader. "Even if the building's already been cleared, we have to make sure and do it again before we set up a collection point, so it'll be good training for us."

In order to prepare for this increased need for combat skills, the Soldiers have been performing more intensive training even at Fort Riley.

"When we did our gunnery, we performed a mass casualty exercise out at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex," Silvers said. "That focuses more on what we're going to be doing out there."

The platoon is also practicing different standard operating procedures in order to be more combat effective.

"We're trying to focus more on medical aid bags, so the Soldiers can be mobile and react to fire easier," Doorink said. "They're also getting some of the training that has previously only been available to higher level medics."

Silvers looks forward to this rotation at NTC being a more practical exercise of skills than anything the platoon has experienced before.

"This is going to be 100 times better than previous rotations because it's so realistic," he said. "It won't be exact, it never is, but it'll be better."

This rotation is meant to assist 1st Bn., 13th Armor, better execute their mission in Iraq sometime next year, officials said.

"The task force will be doing reconnaissance sweeps, supply routes, training the Iraqi police and rebuilding," Doorink said. "This medic platoon will be their liaison to the civilian doctors in the area, but we're going to be right there with them."



Story and photos by Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow

Down & Dirty in Hanau

Iron Engineers

*dig into
training
opportunity at
Campo Pond*

Pfc. Arthur Ricks, III, and Pfc. Thomas Menard, both of Co. A, 16th EN, excavate a T-shaped personnel fighting position with the backhoe of an FLU 419 SEE.



Iron Engineers of the 1st Armored Division are back from Iraq and on track, refocusing on training and exercising man and machine.

Rallying in Hanau, Germany's Campo Pond Training Area, the division's sappers of the 16th Engineer Battalion, 40th Engineer Battalion and Division Engineer Brigade Headquarters, came together to build esprit de

... continued next page ...



corps, shake out their equipment and get back to the basics of combat engineering during November's DIGEX.

The DIGEX, or dig exercise, is designed to train and qualify engineer crews on the M9 Armored Combat Earth Mover (ACE) and FLU 419 Small Emplacement Excavator (SEE). Constructing fighting positions for armored vehicles or personnel, clearing obstacles, sound dampening and improvement of operational sites within specified dimensions and under the time constraints of combat conditions, all serve as bench marks for crew qualification.

"Our training here helps increase surviv-

(Below) Spc. Saul Blanco, Co. C, 40th EN, plows through dirt, digging an armored vehicle fighting position with an M9 ACE.

ability on the battlefield," said Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Coats, platoon sergeant, Company A, 16th EN. "We should do this sort of training semi-annually. The more we train the better we are."

But the battlefield evolved during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the division's engineers adapted to the requirements of the mission, fulfilling a variety of roles as the situation dictated.

The requirements for breaching obstacles under fire and providing cover for troops and armor moving across the battlefield were supplanted by a need to dispose of ordnance, rebuild local communities and combat patrols within Task Force 1st Armored Division's area of operations.

The engineers' role may have changed for the short term but the need to maintain a high level of readiness for traditional missions has not taken a back seat in the minds' of engineer leadership.

"This training is not obsolete and is helping us to build unit cohesion," said Command Sgt. Major Lawrence Miller, 40th EN top NCO. "We have the opportunity to sharpen skills that may have deteriorated during the deployment as well as get the new Soldiers into the team."

Realizing that the engineers' mission in Iraq was different in many aspects allows leaders like Miller and Coats to identify and implement training at all levels addressing Soldiers' and units' needs to be fully mission capable.

"We didn't get a chance to use our equipment to the fullest down range, but we are refocusing during our training here," explained Coats.

Garnering valuable training time for sea-

... continued next page ...



FLU 419 SEE *Small Emplacement Excavator*

The SEE is used to rapidly dig combat emplacements such as crew-served weapon positions, command posts and individual fighting positions. The high mobility of the SEE provides an earthmoving machine capable of rapid movement between battle positions.

The SEE is a lightweight, all-wheel-drive vehicle.

Highly mobile.

Major systems: front mounted light-weight bucket; rear mounted backhoe.

Attachments: handheld hydraulic rock drill, a chain saw and a pavement breaker.

Weight: 16,000 pounds.

Speed: 40 miles per hour on improved roads, and has limited off-road mobility.

Crew: 2 operators.



soned Soldiers to sharpen their skills on their vehicles and introducing new Soldiers to the equipment integral to the engineers' mission aid in building the units' competence.

"This is the time they have to crawl, walk and run," said Coats, referring to the Soldiers guiding their vehicles and tramping through the mounds of earth piled high at Campo Pond. "We never know what the mission will be but we will be ready."

Through this training, building technical and tactical competence rests on one underlying theme of this DIGEX: teamwork.

"We are here to re-bond people," explained 1st Lt. Michelle Gramling, assistant S-3, training and operations officer for the Catamounts of the 16th EN. After 15 months of deployment to Iraq and the redeployment of the division to Germany, many fresh faces have filtered into the ranks of the divisions' engineers. Along with the gain of new Soldiers came the loss of valuable experience as Soldiers changed duty station or left the Army.

Even as the engineer units adapted to new callings, Iron Soldiers had to evolve with the change in personnel.

"We lost valuable experience after the deployment," said Spc. Shaun Ivey, ACE operator, Co. C, 16th EN. "We had to step up and take charge. We are going to pass on what we know to the new guys."



Spc. Saul Blanco, Co. C, 40th EN, pushes earth from the bottom of an armored vehicle fighting position as he completes his qualification as an ACE operator.

Across the board, the engineers are making the most of their training opportunity said 1st Lt. Sean Delaney, assault and obstacle platoon leader, C CO, 16th EN.

"I have three seasoned operators out of seven," said Delaney. "The seasoned guys are working to show the new guys what to do. We're like kids in a sand box."

Relatively new to the division, Soldiers like Pfc. Ernest Rosser and Pfc. Matthew Morgan, both of Co. C, 40th Engineers, received their initial experience with the ACE during the DIGEX and are gleaming the benefits of knowledge from the experienced Soldiers.

"This is my first time training on the ACE and I am having a lot of fun," said Rosser.

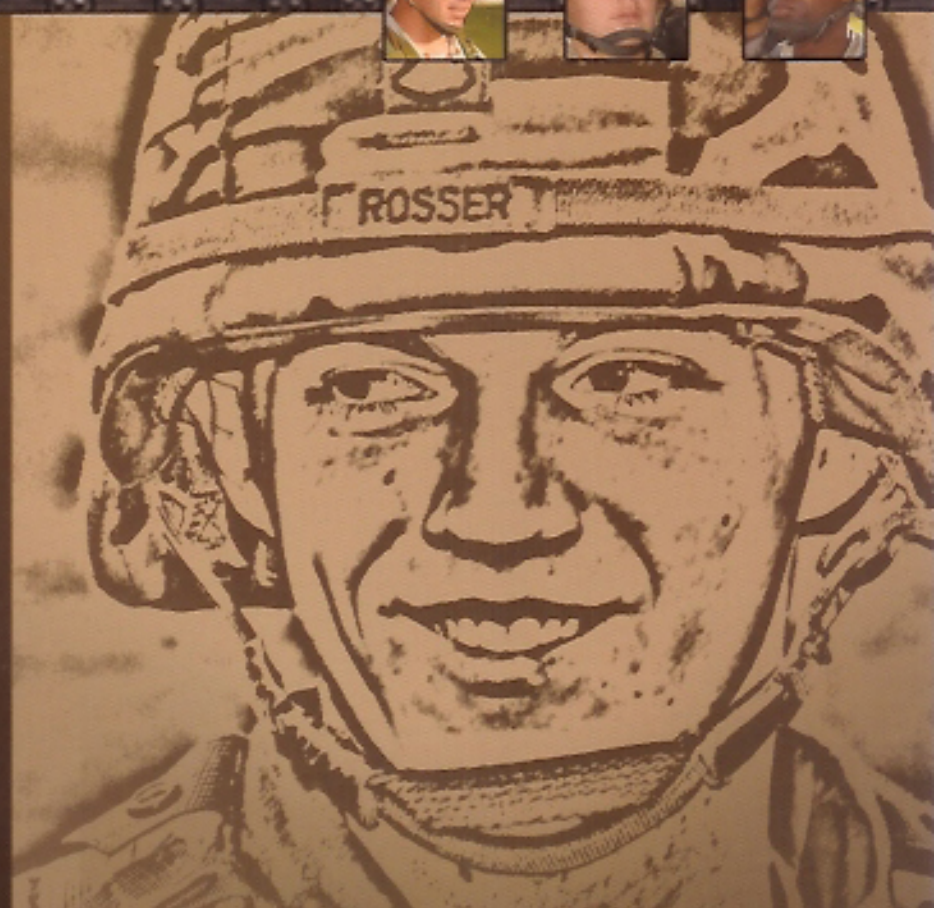
But there is much more behind the fun of piling up mounds of dirt and digging pits for armored vehicles to hide in. There are standards which must be met in order to be a qualified ACE operator.

"NCOs show us what the ACE's capabilities are, showing us what 'right' looks like, you need to feel the dirt and come into it own your own," said Morgan.

NCOs like Sgt. James Hertling, Co. C, 40th EN, and Sgt. John Phillips, Co. A, 16th EN, are providing the basis of knowledge for the new Soldiers.

"We are helping to build future NCOs by training," said Hertling. "I just figure I will teach them everything I know." As NCOs are considered to be the backbone of the Army, bringing to bear the experience of veteran engineers like Phillips can go a long way in providing a solid foundation of training.

... continued next page ...



"This is my first time training on the ACE and I am having a lot of fun."

*Pfc. Ernest Rosser
ACE Operator
Company C, 16th Engineer Battalion*



"The SEE has a lot of tools you don't see just digging, but we have to qualify on every one of them. Digging is only one part of our job," Explained Phillips.

The two-man crew must be capable of building personnel fighting positions, radar, mortar and generator pits with the rear-mounted backhoe and the front-mounted bucket. Soldiers must also show competence in using the hydraulic tools and attachments the SEE has stowed in compartments behind the cab.

A chainsaw, pavement breaker and hammer drill, all powered by hydraulic fittings, increase the SEE's repertoire, making it a versatile piece of equipment capable of handling any job too delicate for the ACE.

The versatility of the Soldiers and equipment lend to the reputation of the engineers as being the workhorse of the division

"When tankers or infantry need an obstacle breached or a fighting position built, they call us," said Phillips. "We get the job done."

The M9 Armored Combat Earth Mover is amphibious and highly mobile. It is capable of supporting forces in both offensive and defensive operations. To increase their endurance the M9 executes critical combat engineer tasks such as digging hull defilade fighting positions for guns, tanks and other battlefield systems. The ACE breaches berms, prepares anti-tank ditches, prepares combat roads, removes roadblocks and prepares access routes at water obstacles.

Capabilities:
30 MPH travel speed allowing it to maintain convoy speed.
3 MPH swim
Smoke obstruction
NBC protection
Halon suppression system.
Crew: 1
Range: 200 miles
Length: 20.5 feet Width: 9.2 feet/ 10.5 feet with dozer wings
Height: 8.9 feet (windshield down)/ 9.9 feet (windshield up) Weight: 26.9 tons

M9 ACE



*"When tankers
or infantry need
an obstacle
breached or a
fighting position
built, they call
us.*

We get the job done."

*Sgt. John Phillips
SEE Operator
Company A,
16th Engineer Battalion*

Story and photos by Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow



Attack Aviation Battalion Upgrades Equipment

Unit moves to Fort Hood to receive AH-64D Apache Longbow

The Flying Dragons of 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment will be upgrading their lethality as they move to Fort Hood, Texas, to receive the AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopter.

"The upgrade to the Longbow will provide the division with improved capability on the battlefield," said Lt. Col. Robert Doerer, commander, 1-501st AV.

The Longbow transition is part of the Army's ongoing process to improve the warfighting capabilities of unit's like 1-501st AV and bring them on line with the advanced technologies of the Future Force concept. As of June 2004, ten Army aviation battalions have received the upgrade and the process is continuing with 1-501st AV.

Doerer and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Remily, 1-501st AV, battalion command sergeant major, cased the unit's colors in a ceremony in Hanau, Germany's Fliegerhoerst Kaserne, Dec. 9, in preparation to move to Fort Hood for training and refitting.

A core of 70 Soldiers from 1-501st AV, including the commander, is staying with the unit, providing continuity during the unit's transition, said Doerer.

"We have really great Soldiers within the unit and the added capabilities of the new hardware will only strengthen our potential for success on the battlefield," explained Doerer. "I am pleased to have such an experienced core of Soldiers as we transition to the Longbow."

The Flying Dragons' transition to the Longbow will be complete in late 2005, adding even more versatility to the division's arsenal.

... a little about the AH-64D Apache Longbow

Two sensors located on the nose the Apache makes this attack helicopter specially designed to operate at night

The basic principle that makes vision at night reality, is called FLIR (Forward Looking Infra-Red).

All objects have a certain temperature, by measuring differences in that temperature a video-image can be produced that can be used for both flying and target acquisition/designation. The pilot uses the so-called Pilot Night Vision Sensor (PNVS) located on the top of the nose, this device produces the FLIR-imagery used for flying. The co-pilot/gunner primarily uses the Target Acquisition and Designation System (TADS) to find and engage targets, the TADS can also be used as a backup vision-device for flying.

The Apache's PIC (Pilot In Command) in the back-seat and pilot/gunner in the front seat, are players in a real-life, hi-tech video game. Able to operate in any weather, Apache gunners can acquire multiple targets and ripple-fire their full range of weapons. A pair of Apaches could rip through a convoy in minutes. The AH-64A was essentially an analogue aircraft on a digital battle field. The AH-64"D" model is a further development, which is a fully digitized (four dual-channel MIL-STD 1553B data-busses) platform and some of them have the mushroom-shaped radar, only they have the name Apache Longbow.

The Longbow Fire Control Radar with its distinctive mast-mounted antenna is a 35 GHz radar system for the detection, location, classification and prioritization of tactical targets.

The AH-64D is armed with the Lockheed Martin/Boeing AGM-114D Longbow Hellfire air-to-surface missile which has a millimeter wave seeker which allows the missile to perform in full fire and forget mode. Range is 8km to 12km



Lt. Col. Robert Doerer and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Remily case the colors of 1-501st AV during a ceremony in Hanau, Germany's Fliegerhoerst Kaserne, Dec. 9, in preparation to move to Fort Hood for training and refitting.

Story and photos by Sgt. Christopher Stanis



Iron MPs pick up an old beat

Refocusing after Iraq

Division's
501st
Military
Police
Company
renews
presence
in
IAD communities

The crossed pistols. They're not a 1970s punk rock band. But they are rocking the suburbs...with the intent to "assist, protect and defend."

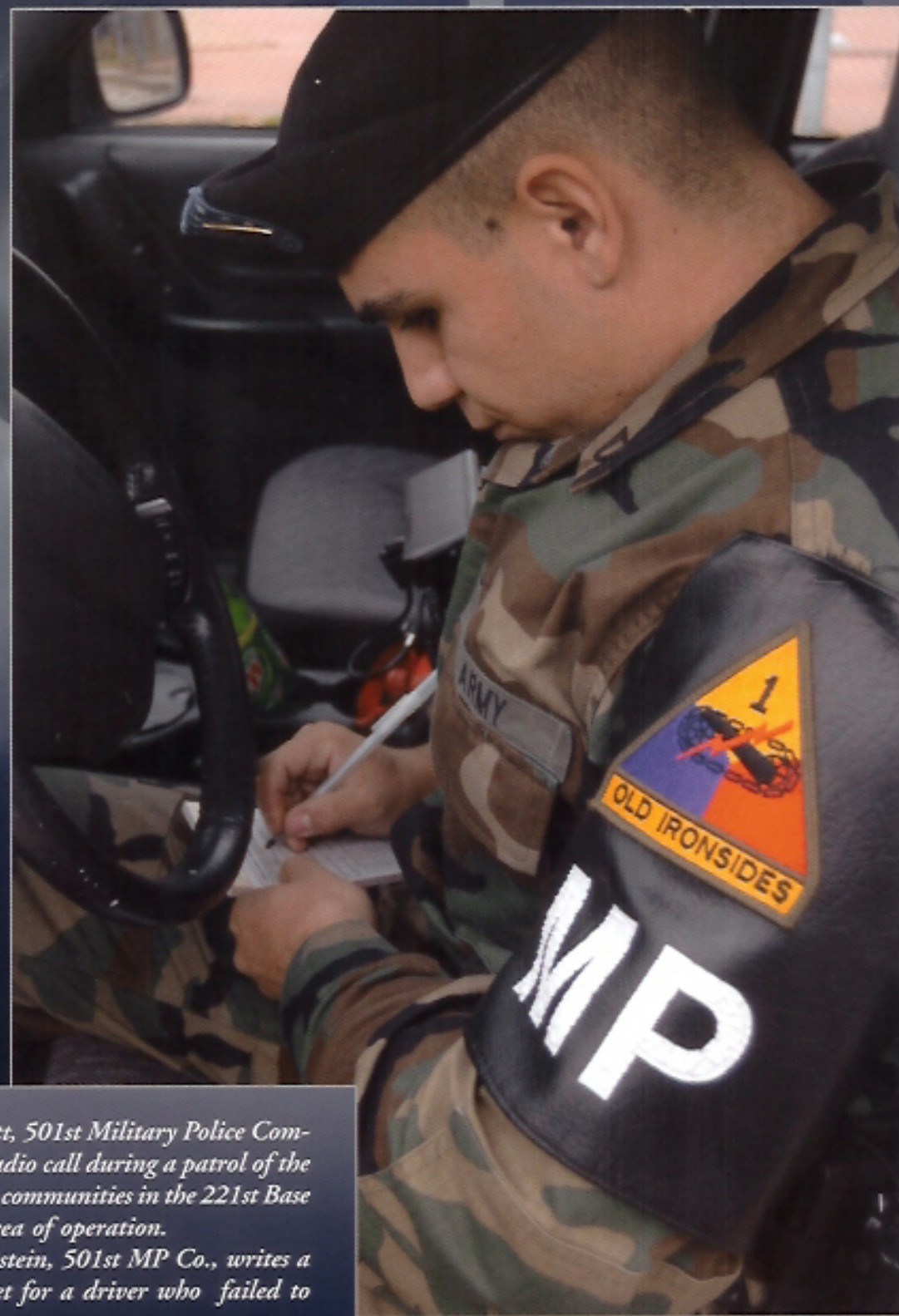
The 1st Armored Division's 501st Military Police Company regained the mission of "road commitment" throughout the division's footprint Oct. 25. The mission was temporarily handed off to elements of V Corps' 18th MP Brigade while 1AD deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Road commitment" entails patrolling housing communities and military bases and providing garrison law enforcement.

For these Iron defenders, this means duties from conducting traffic stops to responding to domestic disputes, said Sgt. David Pritt, 501st MP Co. "Anything that happens in the regular world happens out here."

The company's general support platoons conduct full-time law enforcement operations across the 221st Base Support Battalion area - which encompasses Wiesbaden, Dexheim and Wackernheim bases and housing areas - while two platoons are assigned as field MPs to the division's 1st Brigade Combat Team in Friedberg and 2nd BCT in Baumholder.

... continued page 31 ...



(Left) Sgt. David Pritt, 501st Military Police Company, responds to a radio call during a patrol of the 1st Armored Division communities in the 221st Base Support Battalion area of operation.
(Right) Pfc. Jason Epstein, 501st MP Co., writes a traffic violation ticket for a driver who failed to stop at a stop sign.



501st MPs apply lessons learned

... adapting
training
and
tactics

Story and photos by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

Pfc. Ryan Braun (above) and Pfc. Joshua Griffith (below), both with 2nd Platoon "Gunslingers", 501st Military Police Company, serve as gunners during convoy security training in Baumholder, Germany. The Gunslingers are assigned to 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team as field MPs. As field MPs, their mission is to train for combat deployment.

The term military police is usually associated with that traffic violation you were cited on last week. But there is another side to these troopers than maintaining law and order on the Army's streets.

While the main service platoons of 1st Armored Division's 501st Military Police Company have hitting the road to keep some of the division's housing areas safe, the company's 2nd Platoon, in Baumholder, and 1st Plt., in Friedberg, are hitting the training areas to make sure they're ready for the next deployment. These two platoons are designated as combat MPs.

"A lot of people don't understand that working the road is a very small part of being a military police officer," said Staff Sgt. Michael Cole, 2nd Platoon, 501st Military Police Company, 1st Armored Division. "As it's been told before, we're glorified infantrymen, because we have a lot of combat operations and it takes up the bulk of our time."

A job description of the combat MP includes convoy escorts, military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) training and enemy prisoner of war training.

Training focus is derived from a number of ways.

One way is based off of the war on terror. "Instead of doing look-out points and observation points through woodlands and jungle territory, we're doing it through cities," said Cole. "Now not only do you have to change your tactics, you have to change the way you deal with people around you because you're in the middle of a very populated area."

With urban combat operations also come new risks, as Iron Soldiers deployed to Iraq saw.

The enemy Soldiers have been facing doesn't wear a uniform, so it is difficult to determine who is friendly and who is foe, Cole noted.

The change in fight tactics also effects convoy operations.

"(Improvised explosive device) identification," said Cole.

"We train Soldiers to look for anything that looks suspicious. (Insurgents) have been known to hide IEDs in everything from a pile of rocks to dead animal carcasses."

Leaders of all levels also develop training based on first-hand experience.

"We've been there; we know how it is," said Sgt. Tracy Sharp, 2nd Plt., 501st MP.

Combat veterans can bring what they think are the most important "lessons learned" to the table.

"Having experienced veterans around helps a lot," Pfc. Matt Griswold, one of the more recent additions to the 501st.

"Everybody who got back from down range is telling stories, but they are also giving advice about what to do when we get down there – personally and professionally."

Many leaders encourage the buddy system so Soldiers have someone to talk to if stress gets to great.

Professionally, Cole said it is most important to instill Soldiers with the significance of equipment familiarization and maintenance.

"If any of your gear goes down, it's useless," Cole impressed. "They need to know how to fix it when it if anything should jam or go down in the middle of a mission."

In addition to job-specific training, the combat MPs will conduct joint training with the division's infantry units. They also did this prior to the past deployment to Iraq.

"When we went down range, we conducted a lot of training with the infantry – such as personnel searches and vehicle searches," said Cole. "When it comes down to it we all work together. All of our missions intertwined to make the whole system run smooth."

Cole added that whether training on convoy tactics, or clearing a house, there is only one way to get Soldiers to the proficiency they need: "Train in a repetitious manner so that when it comes down to it they go in to muscle memory and just react."

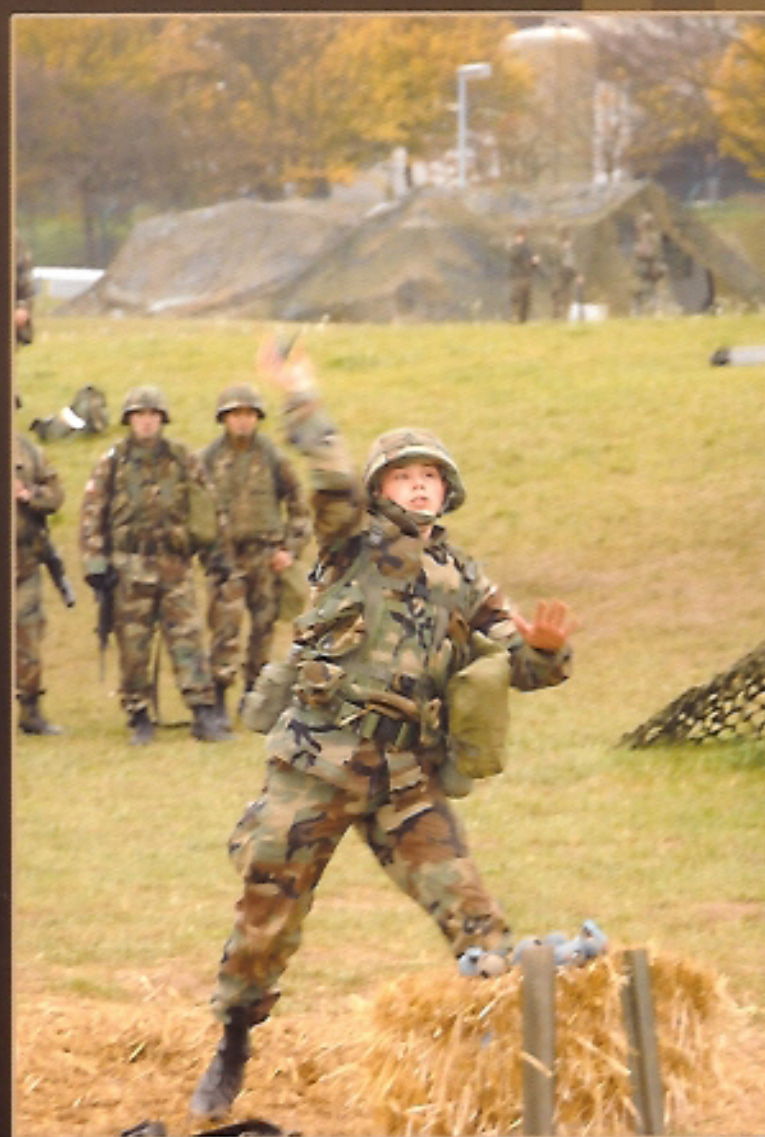


... continued from 12 ...

without actually firing the weapon, saving Soldiers' time and the units' training dollars.

"This is a highly expedient way to zero," said Staff Nicholas Zielinski of 1-36th IN. "We can save a little money and concentrate more on training. And training is something 1-36th IN will not lose focus on."

Even after 15 months of combat in Iraq, battle-hardened units like the Spartans of



Pvt. Chris Kiel, Co. C, 1-36th IN, lofts a grenade during the grenade assault portion of the Expert Infantryman's Badge qualification in Friedberg, Germany, in November.

1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, continue to focus on infantryman's skills and conduct EIB qualification courses. Returning to home station in Friedberg, Germany, from the heat of Iraq, the unit wasted no time after their welcome home in September, refocusing on their mission and beginning EIB in November.

In conjunction with EIB, 1-36th IN conducted training for its support Soldiers.

The advent of combat for the U.S. Army in Iraq has brought about greater focus on the premise that every Soldier is an infantryman. Taking advantage of the renewed emphasis on combat skills, 1-36th IN integrated Warrior Training into their preparation for EIB.

Warrior Training, specifically geared for combat support and combat service support military occupational specialties, brings forth lessons learned and applies them to infantry-skill based training for the "soft MOS's."

Integrating the unit's support Soldiers into the overall-training picture is a priority for 1-36th IN.

"They are around us all the time," explained Johnson, referring to the non-infantry Soldiers assigned to 1-36th IN. "This type of training is so very valuable to the non-infantry Soldiers that are an integral part of our unit because they are with us in combat."

The Warrior Training program is comprised of nine Warrior Drills and 40 Warrior tasks designed to bring the non-infantry Soldiers on line with the skills required to be successful in a combat environment.

"I think it's right on line," said Johnson. "You can't beat value of the training as a Soldier in combat will never know when they may have to call on these skills for practical application."

... continued from 27 ...

"Any time those brigades go to the field, conduct gunnery, go to (Combat Maneuver Training Center), those platoons go with them," said 1st Lt. Paul Thiessen, 501st executive officer.

Thiessen added that when the brigades are not in the field the MPs augment the local law enforcement on the road; however, the road commitment is mostly handled by that area's BSB MPs.

Community members might say the patrolling is going well, but a lot of preparation was put in to getting the 501st ready for the mission.

After returning from Iraq "we went immediately in to law enforcement retraining to get the up to speed on taking over the road in the Wiesbaden community," said Thiessen.

The three-week training plan was put together by the 221st BSB Provost Marshall's Office.

"They anticipated our return here," Thiessen went on, "and they're the ones who actually conducted the training for the company to make sure we were up to speed on all of the standard operating procedures of the area."

The MPs currently run eight-hour shifts, plus

preparation time. They're days start with weapons draw, followed by guard mount, where they discuss any highlighted issues of the day and review the SOP.

Additionally, to ensure and maintain proficiency, the Soldiers go through a guard mount class that focuses on one topic that focuses on one subject that was taught during the three-week reintegration training.

"We go over something different every day," said Spc. Jerry Harris II, 501st MP Co. "That way everyone gets comfortable in what they're doing. It's like they say: 'practice makes perfect.'"

Overall, after 15 months in a combat environment, garrison law enforcement has been a welcomed change for the Soldiers of the 501st MP Co.

"This is our community," said

Thiessen. "We take a lot of pride in it, and for us to come back and give back to the community what they gave to us while we were down range is a great opportunity."

"This is our community. We take a lot of pride in it, and for us to come back and give back to the community what they gave to us while we were down range is a great opportunity."

1st Lt. Paul Thiessen
501st Military Police Company
executive officer.